

**Town of New Hampton
Conservation Commission Minutes
May 14, 2018**

New Hampton Town Office
Upstairs Meeting Room, 6 Pinnacle Hill Road

Members present: T. Simpson, R. Pollock, G. Dubois, and R. Leroux, P. Schlesinger, G. DuBois, B. Rolfe, Kelsey Peterson, Maurice Schofield, and Selectmen's representative Neil Irvine.

Others present: Roger Larochelle, Executive Director, Squam Lakes Conservation Society, Bill Huckins, two residents from the Sky Pond area.

PLEASE NOTE: Since the Commission is without a Chair, Commissioner Simpson agreed to moderate the Commission meetings and Commissioner DuBois will continue with his secretarial duties and prepare the agenda for each meeting. DuBois and Simpson will meet prior to each meeting to review the agenda items. This arrangement will continue until a new Chairperson is elected.

Minutes of April 4 were reviewed and approved with wording changes suggested by Leroux as to the Kelly-Drake forest management plan proposal. Minutes of the 4/25 meeting were approved.

New Commission members Kelsey Peterson and Maurice Schofield introduced themselves and were welcomed onto the Board.

Announcements:

1. DuBois briefed the Board on his hike to Robinson Falls with Russ Wilder of the Lakes Region Conservation Trust.
2. A walk of the Hart property (40 acres bordering on Kelly Drake Conservation Area) with Russ Wilder, LRCT along with Russ and Lynn Hart is scheduled for May 16. DuBois invited other members of the Commission to join the walk.
3. DuBois reported he led a hike of the Kelly Drake Conservation Area on 5/1/18 for the New Hampton Historical Society Board of Directors. The Board approved funds to design and make a kiosk for the cellarhole area. It will describe the history of the farm and will be placed in front of the cellar holes when the first mowing/brush hogging has been completed.
4. Conservation Commission will not meet in July or August, except in the case of an emergency.
5. Election of Commission officers will be held at the June 11 meeting.

New Business:

1. Bill Huckins, who is working with the National Resource Conservation Service (N.R.C.S.), would like to provide stream enhancement of Hoyt Brook, which runs through his property. He will provide improved habitat for the fish population. Commission voted to support the project.

2. Roger Larochelle, Executive Director of the Squam Lakes Conservation Society, spoke regarding the Society's interest in conserving the Squam Water shed, which includes Sky and Jackson Pond. He offered his organization's support of any conservation efforts the NHCC wishes to make in that area. He stressed the importance of protecting this important water shed. He also stated that the Society could provide technical support (maps, data base, etc.) for any other projects of the Commission. He was supported by two New Hampton residents from the Sky Pond area.
3. The Commission voted to accept the bid of \$125 per mowing/brush hogging by Dennis Huckins around the cellar holes at the Kelly-Drake Conservation Area. Mowing/brush hogging will not exceed three times per year. Tyler Simpson abstained from voting.
4. The Commission voted to approve DuBois' request of \$150 to purchase materials for the placing of trail signs on trails Kelly-Drake trail system.
5. Discussion was held regarding security at the Kelly Drake Conservation Area. Recently the lock to the gate was damaged by a gun shot. A new lock was purchased and installed. Pollock suggested and supported by Neil Irvine to place security or game cameras in key locations. The matter was tabled for further discussion at the next meeting.

Old Business:

1. A June meeting with the Board of Selectmen was discussed. Neil Irvine suggested he could bring information to the Board and Commission members, thus not needing to meet with the Select Board. An extended discussion was held regarding the need of the Open Space Plan to be adopted by the Planning Board and to be incorporated into the New Hampton Master Plan. Selectman Irvine also stated he would discuss the Open Space Plan with the Planning Board. Subsequently a sub-committee of the Planning Board has requested to meet with the Commission for the June 11 meeting.
2. Town Website- discussion of adding the Open Space Plan to the Town's website. (There was a question of who will take on this responsibility).

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM

Next meeting will be held Monday, June 11 at 7:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Gordon DuBois, Secretary